

Church News.

THE MARION CHURCH.

Dear readers of the EVANGELIST, this is Tuesday Sept. 1. I have just returned from the National Conference of the Brethren at Warsaw, Ind. I was there as a delegate representing the little faithful band of earnest believers known as the First Brethren Church at Marion, Ind.

With most of the work done at the Conference, I was well pleased. And upon the whole I think, as a Christain denomination, we are making commendable progress. But while this is so, I regret to observe on the part of some, a spirit of fanaticism manifesting itself, that needs to be closely watched and properly curbed by the more considerate and conservative element of the brotherhood.

Zeal when accompanied by knowledge is a good thing, but we must not allow it to get away with our judgment and with the truth. It is certainly our privilege to enjoy the Holy Spirit's power and influence to the fullest extent taught by the word of God. But while we seek the true fire, we must be very careful to keep out the strange and wild fire. Elijah's experience with the prophets of Baal, and the lesson he taught them would be profitable for us to study just now.

This wild fanaticism has been the ruin of many individuals and churches. Its direct tendency is to mislead, and cause us to lose sight of everything else, to set aside the commandments and ordinances of the Lord. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation, by which we are kept unto the salvation which is to be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the only law-giver, the gospel is our only law in religion. The Holy Spirit never teaches contrary to the word, and only teaches through the word. And any spirit that teaches contrary to the word, when proved, will be found wanting and not of God. This is so though it may create in us a zeal and fanaticism equal to that in the prophets of Baal. O for some good Elijah just now to teach us a lesson of the power of the true God.

But I have been digressing. A paper was sent by the Marion Church to the Conference, asking advice as to what disposition should be made of about 68 dollars of money, donated them by individuals in various parts of the brotherhood, for the purpose of helping to pay off their church debt. This money was sent in response to an appeal I made through the EVANGELIST about six months ago, but as the amount contributed was not sufficient to enable them to save the church, it will be sold for the debt.

But before we knew this plan would be a failure, and about the time the contributions began to come in, some delinquent payments were pressing us hard and had to be met at once. So by giving all we could and begging all we could get, and the mission board helping to the amount of 63 dollars, we only succeeded in raising what we were then bound to have by my loaning them what little money I had, 26 dollars, with the understanding that I was to have it back out of the donations that were sent in from the churches.

Brother Simeon Rader was appointed by the church to receive the money from Brother Sprinkle and pay it out on the debt. Learning that we would not be able to hold the church, these donations were not paid. The Marion Church now desires, with the consent of each who contributed his dollar, to pay back the 26 dollars I advanced, and to donate the balance, about 40 dollars, to their pastor as the only compensation he will receive for over nine months services, visiting them twice a month and preaching from four to six sermons per month. This they can only do with your consent.

As the donors were not all at the Conference, it was suggested I should make this statement and explanation through the EVANGELIST. Now you, my dear brethren, who are willing your dollar shall be used as above explained need not write, but if there be any that are not willing that his shall be so used, please write me at 185 W. 6th street, Anderson, Indiana, between this and the first of October, and say what we shall do with it. I wish at this time to thank each of you for your response to my appeal in behalf of our poor brethren at Marion. And although they will soon be without a meeting-house, yet we believe every reasonable sacrifice should be made to build up and save the congregation. J. A. RIDENOUR.

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY FINANCE COMMITTEE AT CONFERENCE.

In behalf of the Finance Committee, the secretary presented in National Conference at Warsaw, Indiana, the financial condition of the University, and the work done towards raising the necessary funds to lift the institution entirely out of debt, and place it upon sound basis. The appreciation manifested in the unanimous acceptance, and approval of the work of the committee by the Conference, is highly gratifying to the committee, after which the Board of Trustees of the institution presented a proposition as follows:—

That National Conference re-affirm the actions of last year with reference to the apportionment plan, and to ask the con-

gregations to comply with the actions of this Conference in the payment of their apportionments, and to instruct the Finance Committee to send solicitors at once to the congregations who have not responded. This proposition was discussed by a number of delegate who are awake to the interests of our Church, men who have observed the means of prosperity and success in other denominations, when it was voted upon, and carried unanimously, and with such feeling for the cause that will be remembered, and which has greatly encouraged the Committee in the work of this common cause, a cause in which each member of each congregation of each district of the Brethren Church is interested. There is no priority of title. They who have stood by the institution during all the storms of its history, and have paid their thousands to save it to the Church, have no more personal right than they who have paid their smallest apportionment, and are members of good standing in the Brethren Church. When the balance of the indebtedness will be removed, which will be soon, and confidence fully restored, with a Board of Trustees and Faculty equal to the demand, with an already well supported Theological department in it, then we will all reap the fruits of our efforts.

Beautiful buildings of immense capacity on a seventeen acre lot, located near the end of a paved street, illumined with electric lights, and supplied with water works, on the southern heights of Ashland City, the county seat of Ashland county, in the central state of our brotherhood, viz., Ohio.

The time for the opening of our school has been fixed to Jan. 1, A. D., 1897, that we may save the expense of solicitors. We now appeal to every congregation that has not reported in readiness to meet its apportionment, to act at once in the matter, and when the whole sum is provided for, notice will be given in the Church paper how and where to send the money, that we may get the entire matter adjusted before school begins.

JOHN KEIM, Sec.

FROM FISHER'S HILL, VA.

At our meeting at Mt. Pleasant in Warren county recently, I baptized five; two of these came out under brother W. H. Spiggle's preaching.

GEO. A. COPP.

COMMUNION.

The church at Glade Run, Pa., will hold a communion on Sept. 12, 1896. All are invited to attend who are of like faith.

J. W. SMOUSE, Pastor.